



Organisation			
Name of Organisation	Witney Food Revolution		
Registered Address (including Post Code)	Wesley Centre, Witney, Oxon, OX28 6HG		
Website	witneyfoodrevolution.com	Telephone	
Facebook/Twitter	www.facebook.com/ WitneyFoodRevolution	Email	info@witneyfoodrevolution.co m
Contact Name	Liliane Ariss		
Position in Organisation	Chair (i.e. Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary)		
Registered Charity	YES /NO	Registration Number	
<p>What are the activities and/or aims of the organisation?</p> <p>Witney Food Revolution is a grassroots community initiative tackling food waste and food insecurity in Witney, Oxfordshire. We began in 2019 with just one self-serve fridge tucked into a small doorway and have over the years grown into a thriving, award-winning operation and a vital local lifeline.</p> <p>Thanks to our 70+ dedicated volunteers, WFR now collects and redistributes 130 tonnes of surplus food to over 28,000 visits per year.</p> <p>We have become the leading food resource in Witney and surrounding villages, offering not only environmental impact but also dignity, connection, and community support.</p> <p>However, our role extends beyond food: we are often the first point of contact for individuals experiencing greater hardship, who may not feel comfortable accessing formal support services but feel welcome at WFR due to our open-door, stigma-free approach.</p> <p>Over time, through recurring visits and relationship-building, we gain insight into wider community needs. From social isolation to food insecurity, from unemployment to a lack of basic life skills, we identify gaps in existing provision, especially for young people and families.</p>			

Membership	
How many members do you have?	Approximately 2,500 visitors per month
Approximately how many of your members live in Witney?	Estimated 1,000
Is membership restricted in any way?	No restrictions
What is your annual subscription, if any?	Nil
Are you affiliated to Oxfordshire Youth or other similar umbrella organisation? If so, which one?	No
Do you have safeguarding procedures in place?	Yes
Local venue/meeting place (if applicable)	Wesley Centre, High Street Methodist Church
Grant-Funding	
<p>Purpose for which the grant is required:</p> <p>The time has come for us to evolve from passive redistribution to proactive engagement. This pilot project will place food at the heart of our next chapter; not just as sustenance, but as a conduit for confidence, creativity, and community.</p> <p>We have observed that many young people and families we support lack basic cooking knowledge; not due to disinterest, but because the intergenerational transfer of skills such as scratch cooking, batch prepping, and meal planning has been gradually lost. The result is that while grateful for the ingredients we provide, many simply do not know how to use them effectively or affordably.</p> <p>We propose to start holding workshops and activities starting with a teen-focused food skills programme: a practical, welcoming, and community-rooted initiative that teaches the joys of home cooking, the value of resourcefulness, and the basics of preparing tasty, nutritious meals with whatever is available.</p> <p>Project Goals and Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offer a safe and inclusive meeting place for young people to socialise, find support, and learn - Empower young people with basic cooking skills and food confidence, using food as a conduit - Reduce reliance on ultra-processed food via hands-on workshops; improve long-term wellbeing and independence - Create intergenerational connections through mentoring; provide pathways into volunteering and first employment, further training; nurture a culture of sustainability and community action <p>Our existing relationships with Duke of Edinburgh programme participants, as well as with schools, local youth services, and family support groups, will allow us to engage participants meaningfully. Young people will not only learn how to cook, but also how to serve others, interact with different generations, and feel a sense of contribution and pride.</p> <p>We have seen this work in action. Through the DofE, our teen volunteers have shown remarkable transformation in confidence, communication, and aspiration. Many have continued with us long after their official requirements were met. Simultaneously, our elderly visitors have expressed delight in the presence and energy of young people—creating quiet community moments that benefit both groups.</p>	

Amount of grant applied for		£ 4,650
Has your organisation previously applied to the Town Council for a grant?		YES/ NO
If YES, please give details	We have received support in the past for the development of our Community Fridge	
Have you applied for a grant to any other body or organisation?		YES/ NO
If YES, please give details	We strive to ambitiously apply to all funds for which we may qualify.	
Financial		
Please enclose a copy of your latest audited accounts, a financial projection for the period following the balance sheet or a Business Plan if a new organisation.		
Fundraising		
<p>What fundraising events or activities will your organisation be holding this year?</p> <p>We have an ambitious plan to raise funds through various methods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grant Funding 2. Community Fundraising & Events We will expand our community fundraising programme through engaging, inclusive events that also raise WFR's visibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Silent Auction & Party: Our flagship fundraising event with music, auction items, and community celebration. - Themed Quiz Nights: Quarterly at local venues with small entry fees. - Community Café & Socials: Donation-based coffee mornings run by volunteers, to raise both funds and social connection. - Pop-up events and challenges 3. Corporate Support 4. Public Giving Campaigns 5. Crowdfunding & Matched Giving 		

General																					
<p>Please provide or attach any additional information which may assist the Council in reaching its decision.</p> <p>Witney Food Revolution respectfully submits this application for £4,650 to support the launch of a transformative pilot project designed to nurture cooking skills, confidence, and community engagement among local teens.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Room hire for 50 weeks</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction of workbench (demonstration/teaching)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Printed materials & certificates for participants</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social media outreach & enrolment campaign</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Student aprons (reusable)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kitchen essentials (measuring jugs, spatulas, etc.)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reusable food storage (containers, bags)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Signage & community-facing promotional materials</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Starter pantry ingredients (oil, spices, stock)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£4,650</td> </tr> </table> <p>WFR is a volunteer-led organisation made up of educators, mentors, health and social care professionals, and community organisers. We operate under a clear safeguarding policy, and the project has its own appointed safeguarding officer, who sits on the delivery committee.</p>		Room hire for 50 weeks	£2,500	Construction of workbench (demonstration/teaching)	£500	Printed materials & certificates for participants	£500	Social media outreach & enrolment campaign	£250	Student aprons (reusable)	£200	Kitchen essentials (measuring jugs, spatulas, etc.)	£200	Reusable food storage (containers, bags)	£200	Signage & community-facing promotional materials	£200	Starter pantry ingredients (oil, spices, stock)	£100	Total	£4,650
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<p>I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I am authorised to make this application for Grant-aid.</p>																					
<p>Signed: Liliane Ariss</p>	<p>Date: 26 June 2025</p>																				

If posting, please return your completed application form to the address overleaf, for the attention of the TOWN CLERK

For office use only:			
Acknowledged		Previously Applied	
Grant Aid Awarded/Amount	Y / N	Chq No.	